

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:
Joseph A. Giordano et al.

Serial No.: 09/224,027

Filed: December 31, 1998

For: DISPENSING SYSTEM AND
METHOD WITH RADIO
FREQUENCY CUSTOMER
IDENTIFICATION



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Group Art Unit: 2761

Examiner: William N. Hugnet

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Group 2700

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Prior to the initial examination of the above-identified application, please amend the application as follows:

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 13-16, 18-23, 26, 33-49, 52.

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (AMENDED) A dispensing method with radio frequency customer identification capabilities for charging a customer for sales transacted by the customer, the method comprising:
for multiple, two sided dispensers spaced from each other in a service area, creating a plurality of stationary, independent electromagnetic fields of predetermined operable ranges adjacent the dispensers such that the field for each side of each dispenser does not overlap with the field for the other side of that dispenser or with the fields of other dispensers;

determining whether a transponder containing customer identification data is within range of a dispenser, the dispenser requiring activation by the customer to initiate a transaction and including a reader associated therewith for emitting radio frequency signals within the dispenser range, and for receiving customer identification data from the transponder responsive to the emitted radio frequency signals received by the transponder;